



California Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans News

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NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS

Governor Schwarzenegger has once again demonstrated his commitment to California's veterans. His 2007-08 proposed state budget includes funding for installing a cutting-edge enterprise wide veterans home information system, funds for reopening the skilled nursing unit of the Barstow Veterans Home, and monies for adding staff for the initial construction and pre-activation phase of the Greater Los Angeles Ventura County veterans home project.

"The Governor's proposed budget again demonstrates his commitment to our nation's veterans," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Tom Johnson. "Time and time again Governor Schwarzenegger has thanked veterans for making it possible for him to come to this country and acquire a piece of the American Dream."

Specifically, the Governor's 2007-08 budget for the California Department of Veterans Affairs includes:

- \$2.3 million (\$2.1 million General Fund and \$245,000 federal and other funds) and 18 positions to reopen 40 Skilled Nursing Facility beds at the Barstow Veterans Home. The activation of the unit will occur over two fiscal years.
- \$10.3 million General Fund (\$7 million one-time) and 20.9 positions to procure and implement a statewide Veterans Home Information System that will replace the current proprietary system in the existing homes and be used in any additional homes that are constructed in the future.
- \$995,000 General Fund and 7.6 positions for the initial construction and pre-activation phases of the Greater Los Angeles and Ventura County Veterans Homes project. At completion, the new facilities will bring Adult Day Health Care, assisted living and Skilled Nursing Facility care to the greater Los Angeles area.

The California Department of Veterans Affairs has an annual department operating budget of approximately \$300 million, a Farm and Home Loan program with assets of about \$2.4 billion, and roughly 1,600 employees statewide. The department provides outreach to veterans reentering civilian life after having answered America's call to military service, by helping them claim their earned veterans benefits, provides low-cost loans to acquire homes and farms, and when the time comes, provides aged and disabled veterans rehabilitative, residential, and medical care and services in home-like environments at the California Veterans Homes.

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